

24 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. U.S. DROPS CHARGES AGAINST EX-"DIRTY BOMB" SUSPECT: *"The U.S. Defense Department has dismissed all charges against a Guantanamo Bay detainee previously accused of plotting poison gas and radiological "dirty bomb" attacks in the United States, the Associated Press reported yesterday."*

2. ER STAFFS: GAPS EXIST IN HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS FOR DIRTY BOMBS: *"In ranking the six most-voiced concerns, the top worry was that hospitals would be overwhelmed by incoming patients, Becker said."*

3. NO SIGNS OF QAEDA ELECTION THREAT - U.S.: *"Al Qaeda has shown no signs it plans to attack the United States during the presidential election, but the government must keep guard during the 2-1/2-month transition to a new president, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said on Thursday."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DESTRUCTION FACILITY (UMCDF) - VX MINE PROCESSING REACHES HALFWAY MARK: *"The light at the end of the VX campaign tunnel is getting bigger and brighter as UMCDF passed another milestone this week. Mine processing passed the 50 percent destruction mark during operations on Tuesday, Oct. 21."*

2. TOWN TO CELEBRATE DESTRUCTION OF DEADLY CHEMICAL WEAPON: *"An Army contractor that recently finished destroying a deadly nerve agent stored in western Indiana will hold a public celebration this weekend marking the milestone."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

U.S. DROPS CHARGES AGAINST EX-"DIRTY BOMB" SUSPECT

Global Security Newswire

October 22, 2008

"The U.S. Defense Department has dismissed all charges against a Guantanamo Bay detainee previously accused of plotting poison gas and radiological "dirty bomb" attacks in the United States, the Associated Press reported yesterday. Officials reserved the right, however, to restore the charges in the future."

"The Pentagon, which last week withdrew the unconventional weapons charges against Binyam Mohammed, said yesterday that it had eliminated all charges against the British resident and four other detainees to make way for new cases against the suspects."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081022_9982.php

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ER STAFFS: GAPS EXIST IN HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS FOR DIRTY BOMBS

University of Alabama at Birmingham

October 16, 2008

"The finding underscores the need for better hospital preparedness training and clearer guidelines for managing radiological events, the researchers said. A dirty bomb combines conventional explosives and radioactive materials."

"Their findings are published in Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness, a journal of the American Medical Association."

"In ranking the six most-voiced concerns, the top worry was that hospitals would be overwhelmed by incoming patients, Becker said. Those patients would likely be a mix of contaminated, injured and contaminated and those fearful of contamination.

The No. 2 worry was ED professionals' need to ensure their own family's safety, which is discounted or not mentioned in many preparedness plans, Becker said. This second concern was linked closely to the No. 3 worry that ED staffing would drop below acceptable levels based on staff family needs and fears about radioactivity.

Additionally many study participants disagreed with current federal radiological management guidelines, which state that patient stabilization and treatment of life-threatening conditions should take precedence over decontamination, Becker said."

The full article can be found at: <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/MediaRelations/articles/53368/>

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NO SIGNS OF QAEDA ELECTION THREAT - U.S.

By Randall Mikkelsen

Reuters

October 24, 2008

"Al Qaeda has shown no signs it plans to attack the United States during the presidential election, but the government must keep guard during the 2-1/2-month transition to a new president, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said on Thursday.

Chertoff added the global economic turmoil had yet to cause any visible change in al Qaeda's strategy, although the financial crisis could reduce state and local spending on security.

He also cautioned about heated political rhetoric in "an intemperate time," saying it could fuel violence among Americans."

The full article can be found at: <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia->

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DESTRUCTION FACILITY (UMCDF) - VX MINE PROCESSING REACHES HALFWAY MARK

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

October 23, 2008

"The light at the end of the VX campaign tunnel is getting bigger and brighter as UMCDF passed another milestone this week. Mine processing passed the 50 percent destruction mark during operations on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

The mine campaign is the final one of the overall VX agent campaign. Once mines are finished, the plant will undergo a lengthy changeover in preparation for the final stage of the mission — destruction of HD mustard ton containers."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003679302>

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TOWN TO CELEBRATE DESTRUCTION OF DEADLY CHEMICAL WEAPON

Fox News

October 22, 2008

"An Army contractor that recently finished destroying a deadly nerve agent stored in western Indiana will hold a public celebration this weekend marking the milestone.

Saturday's event at South Vermillion High School in Clinton will include speeches by officials with the Army's Chemical Materials Agency and Army contractor Mason & Hanger Corp."

The full article can be found at: <http://iphone.foxnews.com/story/0/443284-Town-to-Celebrate-Destruction-of-Deadly-Nerve-Agent.html>

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